California GARDEN

FORTY-NINTH YEAR **AUTUMN 1958** VOL. 49, NO. 3

The Dragon Tree, *Dracaena draco,* (see Page 42). Photograph by George E. Lindsay
Garden of Capt. Clayton Miller, U. S. N.—1265 Alameda Blvd., Coronado.

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EDITORIAL BOUQUETS

PUBLISHED BY
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO
PARK ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Balboa Park
San Diego 1, California

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Wanted: Back issues of California Garden from 1909 to 1916 and Spring, 1952. Please send to Miss Alice M Greer for files.

Floral Association groups and affiliates who wish to use the Floral Building, are asked to check the calendar there by calling BE 2-5767, or Mrs. Thacher at HO 6-1797.

San Diego Floral Association Activities
Visitors Always Welcome

Tuesday, September 16 . . . . 6:00 p.m.
Floral Building, Balboa Park
Picnic supper in the Garden Center
Regular meeting of S. D. F. A.
Speaker: Frank Gander
Subject: Illustrated talk on Native Plants.

Tuesday, October 21 . . . . 8:00 p.m.
Floral Building, Balboa Park
Regular meeting of the S. D. F. A.
Speaker: Ora Wilson
Subject: Ferns you should know and grow.

Tuesday, November 18 . . . . 8:00 p.m.
Floral Building, Balboa Park
Regular meeting of the S. D. F. A.
Speaker: Dr. Reid Moran
Subject: Succulents

Tuesday, December 16 . . . . 8:00 p.m.
Floral Building, Balboa Park
Regular meeting of the S. D. F. A.
Speaker: Jerry MacMullen, Serra Museum Dir.
Subject: Christmas in early California.
Christmas singing led by Sam Hinton.

Fourth Monday of each month . . . 9:30 a.m.
Flower arrangement classes in Floral Bldg.
Instructor: Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick
Chairman: Mrs. Roland Hoyt. CY 6-2757

Membership in the San Diego Floral Association includes a subscription to California Garden. Classification of memberships: Annual, $3.00; Family, $5.00; Sustaining, $5.00; Contributing, $25.00, and Life Membership, $100.00. Memberships and gifts are deductible from income tax.

Garden Clubs — Notice

Affiliate membership in the San Diego Floral Association is available to all garden clubs within the city limits of San Diego. Annual dues of $10.00 entitles an affiliate to representation on the executive board of the Floral Association and two subscriptions to California Garden. An additional fee of $15.00, for the building maintenance fund, entitles an organization to the use of the building for meetings and to the use of another building in the park for a flower show. Garden clubs interested are asked to write a letter petitioning affiliate membership.

California Garden

FORTY-NINTH YEAR | AUTUMN, 1958 | VOL. 49, No. 3

Roses for San Diego

HELEN D. CARSWELL
Pacific Southwest District Director
American Rose Society

The Rose, mankind will all agree,
The Rose, the Queen of Flowers, should be.
—Sappho, 600 B.C.

Throughout the centuries since the above words were written, the rose can boast continued appeal; for its beauty, commonly experienced by many peoples throughout the years, for its ease and versatility of cultivation, and perhaps most of all because it is continually being improved. Wizards of the hybridizing world combine the good qualities of one rose with the attractive features of another favorite. They are constantly striving for hardiness, immunity to disease, greater floriferousness, brighter colors, new shades, like lavender and chocolate, and especially for the charm of *form* displayed in high-centered blooms, with symmetrical arrangement of petals—all the qualities essential to a top-flight rose.

NEW ROSES

Of the *spectacular roses* being introduced this year, Perfecta is getting the spotlight all across the country. The crowning achievement of Wilhelm Kordes, who operates a large nursery in West Germany, the hybrid tea, Perfecta produces large full-petaled blooms, displaying a combination of white, yellow and pink, with the pink predominating at the edge of the petals.

In this class too, I would put Lady Luck. Hybridized by Andrew J. Miller, of Montebello, this pink hybrid tea, with deeper color on the petal edges, combines the form and color, with the vigor and floriferousness of its parents, Show Girl and Tom Breneman. Entered in the Rome Trials, it is bringing enthusiastic comment from Europe as well as at home. It performs superbly in Mrs. J. J. Kenneally's San Diego garden.

The hybrid tea Peaceful is also an eye-catcher, a large full-petaled deep pink, with petals that curl and point. It was hybridized by E. S. Boerner, plant research director of the Jackson & Perkins Company at Newark, New York. Looking at the color slide I took in the Portland test garden, my first thought was, "what a beautiful Paul de Longpre painting Peaceful would have made!"

BLUE ROSES

Perhaps no less spectacular are the blue roses, and the newer shades of lavender. As it was displayed at the 1958 Los Angeles International Flower Show, the hybrid tea, Sterling Silver, is perhaps best known locally. Hybridized by Gladys Fisher of Massachusetts, it has also received wide attention at the Annual Sterling Bowl Tournament, a national flower arrangement competition co-sponsored each year by Jackson & Perkins Company and the Sterling Silversmiths Guild of America. With Peace in its ancestry, it is a vigorous grower, true lavender in color, with a silver sheen over all, and a fragrance like sweetpeas.

The floribunda Lavender Girl (Meilland '57) is the "finest lavender we have seen", according to Clyde Stocking, who has an AARS Test Garden at his San Jose Nursery. The urn-shaped bud has a ruby-red tinge that changes to rosy lavender. The flowers on this low-growing, low-spreading plant, hold up well in any weather. It makes an excellent cut flower.

1959 ALL AMERICA ROSE SELECTIONS

Two vivid new roses received the 1959 AARS awards, IVORY FASHION, a white floribunda and STARFIRE, a cherry red grandiflora. They represent years of selection and research, and are the 49th and 50th varieties to be named for this honor. Ivory Fashion might be called a versatile rose, for its foliage is abundant, and the blooms are attractive in

Photo courtesy of Pacific Rose Society News.

Clarence G. Perkins, of the Jackson & Perkins Company, Pleasanton, California, presents a sheaf of the new floribunda, Ivory Fashion, a 1959 All America Rose Selections Award winner, to Mrs. Helen D. Carswell, editor of the Pacific Rose Society News.

all stages, from the well-shaped buds to the full blown flowers, displaying attractive long yellow stamens and rose-colored pistil centers. Its firm substance makes it useful both for garden culture and for exhibition. It is also a Boerner creation.

The grandiflora Starfire, a brilliant currant-red, is another fine rose produced by Walter E. Lammerts of Livermore, California, and introduced by Germains. Its glossy holly-like leaves and nonfading color make it an ideal cutting rose. Like all grandifloras, it produces singly and in clusters on long cutting stems, and this, along with its luminous color, makes it also an excellent garden variety. In my own San Fernando Valley garden where we get lots of 100 degree temperatures, it continued to produce fine bloom throughout the whole summer.

ROSE WITH APPEAL

As a selection for a new rose that has general appeal, the hybrid tea, Angel Wings would get my first vote. It was hybridized by Bob Lindquist, originator of Lilibet and Tiffany, and introduced by "Howards of Hemet." After seeing it thriving in San Diego, in the warmer test gardens of Phoenix, and having a good friend in Illinois report that it does well there also, it would seem that it is a rose that will meet a wide range of conditions. Related to the favorite Girona, it is a vigorous grower, and continuous bloomer, but it has better form and deeper coloring than its ancestor. Its deep tangy lemon-like fragrance is most appealing. It is an excellent show variety and does particularly well in the San Diego area.

LOCAL ADAPTABILITY

After several visits to the Balboa Park Rose Garden I would list two recent Armstrong introductions as especially adapted to local conditions:

Isobel Harkness, a bright shining yellow, with lovely long buds, brightened the whole picture. The clarity of its color and the swirl of its pointed buds, make it an excellent exhibition rose.

La Jolla, a jewel-like pastel beauty, is a soft pink with a heart of gold. Its wax-like exhibition-form blooms and handsome foliage seem custom built for San Diego gardens.

The "piece de resistance" in many 1958 rose gardens has been the floribunda Little Darling (Deuhrsen '56), a real charmer. The perfectly formed, 2½ inch, creamy-yellow buds, flushed with apple-blossom pink on the outer petals, that are somewhat reminiscent of a miniature Peace, are borne in large clusters on a tall busy plant. It is tops for corsages!

WINTER BLOOM

Not only are many roses adapted to San Diego, but several varieties produce year-around bloom. Few other areas have this rare gift. A huge arch of the climber Mary Wallace in a Kansas City Park last spring, made me wonder why more southland rosarians do

not take advantage of the spectacular beauty of the early blooming roses, like the Cherokee, Cl. Mrs. Sam McGredy and others. Belle of Portugal will festoon a porch or wall in a sunny location, in March. Banksia, almost as early, available in both white and yellow, is absolutely thornless and rampant, and fills the air with its deep violet fragrance. Even if Banksia never bloomed, its mildew-proof foliage is an ideal shrub to clothe a wall or roof. If space is a problem, Susan Louise, the bush, everblooming form of the Belle of Portugal, has a better stem and neck. If placed in the sun and out of the wind, and well fed, it will produce lots of pointed flesh-pink buds in winter. It is nearly thornless; although not rampant, it is a tall grower.

Other varieties adapted to winter bloom for holiday use and party decoration are fewer-petaled roses like Mickey, Rhapsody, Eclipse, and Audie Murphy, as well as the single-petaled roses like Dainty Bess, Sunny June, Francis Ashton etc. Mickey and Audie Murphy, both with long tapering red buds, are ideal for Christmas, and the floriferous, vivid-orange Rhapsody, for Thanksgiving.

ROSE WORLD NEWS

While the procession of new roses continues, the rose world mourns the passing of one who created many new varieties, Francois Meilland, France's "Rose King," June 15, at Antibe, France at the age of 46. He was best known to us in America for his rose, Peace.

Southland rosarians are extending their best wishes to the new Riverside Rose Society who will hold its First Annual Rose Show at the Mission Inn, October 11-12, in conjunction with the Tenth Annual Rose Growers Show, sponsored by the Inland Empire Chapter, California Association of Nurserymen, and the Rose Growers of Southern California. For information write to the Riverside Rose Society, P.O. Box, 2083, Riverside, California.

Another event of interest to all rose growers is the Sixth American Rose Society District Meeting, October 25-26, at the Maricopa Inn, Mesa, Arizona, hosted by the Mesa Rose Society. For information write to R. E. Love, 158 West 7th Place, Mesa, Arizona.

These events are soon followed by the early pruning demonstrations in various Southland parks and private gardens. Truly the Rose occupies our time the whole year. In the past two years I have visited rose gardens from Halifax to Victoria, and from Boston to San Diego; I have lost track of how many trips I have made to San Diego. Seeing the Rose's excellent performance in San Diego, its suberb rose shows, beautiful private gardens and above all roses even in winter, it is easy to see why, throughout the years, San Diego proudly carries on the age-old tradition that "The Rose, the Queen of Flowers should be!"

Sauce For The Gobbler

From "Talk of the Town"*

The *Times,* the other day, reported the death, at the age of seventy-five, of Dr. Henry James Franklin, founder of Massachusetts' Experimental Cranberry Station, at East Wareham, who discovered, studied the life cycles of, and ultimately was able to triumph over pests "that in 1905 had all but wiped out the Cranberry crop of Massacuhestts," the obituary noted, and went on to characterize the 1905 crop as "parent of an industry that has spread to New Jersey, Wisconsin, Oregon and Washington, and on a lesser scale to Maine, Rhode Island, Michigan and Long Island." Although Dr. Franklin "never sought personal profit or fame . . . the American Cranberry Exchange's publication, *Cranberry World,* honored him with the title 'No. 1 Cranberry Specialist,'" we read, and felt a vagrant stirring of sadness and patriotism — for, of course, the cranberry, whose peril had theretofore escaped our attention, is as American a necessity as the autumnal turkey in whose ritual it participates. The cranberry's sentimental value is botanically sound, the cranberry being one of only eight fruits credited by our young son's "Golden Treasury of Natural History" with being indigenous to our continent. (The others are the gooseberry, blueberry, and grape—all, including the grape, true berries—and the strawberry, blackberry, red raspberry, and western dewberry, which for some reason are not true berries but are all considerably more appealing than the only indigenous North American vegetables recognized by the volume, the tepary bean and the Jerusalem artichoke.) The *Times* said Dr. Franklin had been educated as an entomologist and "while fighting other insects, he encouraged the bumble bee," because of its preeminence as a pollinator of crops. We have filed away a mental note to raise a toast next Thanksgiving to Dr. Henry James Franklin, diffident savior of the cranberry (a true berry) and encourager of the bumble bee, and to the balanced state of the nation for which he and the *Times*' discerning obituary writer both stand.

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Trees For The Tropics

A Review and Adaptation

Roland S. Hoyt

E. A. Menninger of Stuart, Florida, asks "What Flowering Tree Is That," the eternal question of the enquiring and growing gardener. In his book of that name, he starts to look at answers. Mr. Menninger is a man of parts in the tree world. He is to Florida what Hugh Evans is to California and what K. O. Sessions was to us here in the extreme south. For many years he has been bringing in rare and impossible species of trees and shrubs from such far places that little is known about wants and habit. His garden in Stuart is a testing ground of note that may be compared with the Fairchild gardens and the works of Nehrling there.

Now one asks what this has to do with California and our cool nights and one may be told that much of the future in development of new flowering trees for this state may come along in line with this work that is being done in Florida. Tender materials gradually tend to creep northwards into cooler lands and gardeners can aid this process materially by searching out and intelligently testing these sometimes marvelous creations that are already made and waiting to be adapted to our own conditions. In going through this book I can't resist naming and discussing some of the tender species that may be grown in frost-free areas here. The reader will find many familiar names in this book that are accepted as standard in California and commonly seen.

One of the first names encountered is Frangipani, the tree of fragrance and romance of the Caribbean, a storied tree. This is a low, branchy thing of short, stubby stems and attractive flowering that is so long-lasting. It is something to try in warmth, as of the back-country hills where any frost gets away quickly and surely and where the nights are not so cool. It will grow there and may produce the blooming where production of wood is inhibited in the cooler coastal areas. This will be very select for anyone successful with it.

Another very choice bit is *Ochrosia elliptica,* the so-called Tropical Almond. This is not too much of a chance since there is a well-grown specimen in southeast San Diego. There it is a many-stemmed shrub, probably resulting from a cut-back by frost sometime in the past. The fruit is laquer-red to brown as it ripens and drops, when it spreads the odor of violets. Grow this near the sea for salt resistance in wind.

There are six pages and some thirty species of Tabebuia, the Trumpet tree described. Mr. Menninger waxes eloquent, at times lyrical, in discussing this genera. And well he may, for south Florida, but for California in any but the warmest, best drained ground, be careful. These trees are small but exquisite in flower. Imagine a rounding top at about twenty feet with glorious bignonia-like bloom in good pink and reds or yellow and pure white. Anyone wanting to try this might better try to find *T. umbellata* which may be hardier in frost . . . do not find this in Hortus. These are among the more showy trees to be found in Florida.

The African Tulip-tree has been tried here to my knowledge, but it is my belief not intelligently, and certainly not successfully. Gorgeous red, tulip-like flowers crowd the crown of this large tree, but only in warm and frost-free spots. It may become a large shrub in frost and is inclined to sucker when cut back. The secret of bloom in California, and supposedly anywhere, is to get a carry-over of well-matured blooming wood. In other words, see to it that your tree goes into winter as dormant as possible. This is surely a tree to work on in adapting to cooler regions, and it is my understanding that a smaller tree, *S. nilotica* is hardier. Menninger considers it synonymous.

Markhamia lutea or *hildebrandti* was a favorite tree of Lockwood de Forest and has been rather freely planted in Santa Barbara. One stood frost-damaged in the Evans & Reeves Nurseries in Santa Monica. The crumpled leaflets of this small tree carry the brilliant red of the new growth into maturity for a beautiful show. The flowers are, again, like bignonia, yellow, sometimes purple-lined, a sight for very early spring.

Chorisia speciosa has been proven for Southern California these many years, but little has been done about it until recently. Those who want something new and spectacular in large trees can obtain this if they will ask around. It should have as deep soil as is available and be set where there is room to spread and reach upwards. The stout, grey-green trunk is set variously with stubby thorns and the flowering is also variable in size and shading, bright pink to rose, roughly the form of a lily and somewhat the texture.

This is the Silkfloss Tree, with two notable specimens in California, namely the Bellaire Hotel on Stone Canyon Road in the vicinity of the campus of the University of California Los Angeles and off Sunset Boulevard; the other in the main court of the Automobile Club of Southern California at Adams and Figueroa in Los Angeles. Either is worth a considerable trek to see in flower . . . sometimes October to December.

The Shower Trees of tropical countries are famous and known to many travelers from the United States. Here are two that may be grown under conditions as outlined . . . but somewhat precariously. The Golden Shower has been successfully grown on the Stanley Andrews Place in the hills back of El Cajon, California . . . splendid specimens to 15-20' with their deep-hanging clusters of yellow bloom in mid-summer. The Pink Shower is a spreading 50' tree normally, probably much less as grown here. This flowers in the spring, a delicate rose-pink, fading to a kind of salmon that is just as attractive. The new growth is reddish and covered with silvery hair which soon disappears, leaving the leaf a good dark green. This is *Cassia grandis* and will be more tender than the preceding tree, *Cassia fistula.* The foliage of these trees is much refined. They are quick-growing and comparatively short-lived. Watch the structure or frame-work of a specimen the first years, that any pruning done be for strength in the wind. They want full sun and good drainage and will flower better if not too wet.

Any gardener who has a spot of night warmth might try the Royal Poinciana or Flambouyant, *Delonix regia,* but the writer does not recommend it. Many times he has been corrected as to its existence in Southern California, but always some other plant has been noted and now he conserves gasoline and rubber.

Colvillea racemosa is a splendid slow-growing tree of spectacular bloom on the order of above, but in fall-winter. Hanging clusters of orange-scarlet buds open gradually for this display and to coat the ground with a delightful spread similar to that of the Jacaranda, but orange.

Cochlospermum is generally known as the Buttercup-tree because of the exceptionally large and brilliant yellow flowers of early spring. This is extremely showy and exceptionally touchy the early years. Hugh Evans introduced this into California several years past and one small specimen of *C. vitifolium* was obtained for the Dr. Vanasen estate back of La Mesa, California. It failed the first winter, due largely, it is believed, to premature planting. This is one of the hopefuls of the true tropicals for landscape planting in the south of California. Someone in this "Magic Ten Miles" back of the Pacific should pick up the case for this tree and carry on.

Oncoba routledgei is a large shrub or small round-headed tree with single flowers in the camellia reminder. It is thorny and the leaves are saw-toothed but attractive for a very satisfactory use in these regions as contemplated in this writing. It has been grown in Rancho Santa Fe more or less successfully and may be grown further in Southern California in favored spots. The flower is a "fried egg" type of camellia and very choice, where it is well grown.

Greya sutherlandi is a small tree or shrub-like, of irregular shape and outline that may at times be considered picturesque, the stems gnarled and large-woody. The crimson flowers are full out by October, five glowing petals fully an inch across, clustered about a stem that gives it a spike-like appearance. Menninger says to grow it in the sun, but E. O. Orpet in Santa Barbara grew it in the shade of lath. Probably both are right, as so often is true. This plant has a great deal of promise for California and it should'nt be necessary for Florida to call attention to such a good thing.

Clusia rosea will be grown first in a tub in California, especially for large, smooth, spatulate leaves so effective against a white wall. In the ground it makes a large tree in protection, a low gnarled tangle in the push of the wind on the coast. The thick-petaled flowers are white to pinkish, but the leaves will be of greater importance and attractiveness. It is called Monkey Apple and may become a strangler on other trees in humidity and sufficient warmth.

Calophyllum inophyllum is a tree to try out in Coronado or other seacoast places where it will develop wind-twisted, picturesque shapes. Dark shining leaves give

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it its salt-resisting qualities. The inch-size white flowers are born in stiff, erect clusters in the axils of the leaves and are rather sweetly fragrant, February and again in August. This is not too much of an experiment on the easterly shore of such a place as above.

Lagerstroemia speciosa, the Queen's Crape-myrtle must be mentioned for its actual and obvious and nearly proven value in these regions. It is less subject to mildew or immune, compared with the common form; a slender tree that is inclined to lop and must be strengthened as one uses the pruning shears. This is one of the most spectacular of the flowering trees when well-grown, all through the warmth of summer. Inch-wide, delicately frilled, pinkish mauve flowers in immense trusses will weight the weak stems to the ground in heavy bloom. This has been found in some nurseries and has been noted recently in Andersens in San Diego and in De Haans in Encinitas and we will soon know what range can be expected. Grow them in the sun for superior flowering.

Talauma hodgsoni is a magnolia-like tree that is now being tested out in various places in Southern California. It has been called the most beautiful tree in the world, but has yet to show its claim in flower in the United States. It is a large tree with great ivory-white flowers having contrasting blue sepals and considerable fragrance. It seems to want some coolness and a small specimen on the Glenn Murdock place in La Mesa, California is doing well in shade.

A spectacular tropical tree in bloom is *Butea frondosa,* also known as Flame of the Forest. This will be grown shrubby for a few years until it decides to go into tree form. The bright orange red petals are contrasted by the jet-black calyx. One should find this an interesting tree to work with and considerable satisfaction in winning out. Mr. Menninger indicates there will be temperament to contend with. The flowers are sweetpea-like and so closely packed together that when opening appear as a sheet of flame in the distance. This is a slow-growing tree with crooked stems that may be grown in heavy soils with some salt content.

Embothrium coccineum, the Chilean Firebrush-tree is not a tropical but will be found in this book. It is mentioned here because of the extremely effective showing of color and the fact that it can be grown throughout these regions if patience is used in getting it established . . . more than the writer had. It grows to be 30-40′ in height and may develop in several stems. Grow it in an acid soil with much humus and not too much fertilizer. It is frost hardy.

Harpullia arborea is a handsome tree year-round, but by Christmas it becomes more interesting and appropriate in the showing of the crimson, two-parted cherry-like seed pods. This is known as Tulipwood and comes from the southsea islands, but is hardy in light frost. It is a broadly rounding tree at 40′ in good soils and proudly displays a pale, glossy green, nicely ruffled foliage.

Verdine L. Stotts

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There are two specimens in the parking on the east side of Sunset Boulevard between Witherby and Ingleside in the Mission Hills district of San Diego. These poor plants are struggling to survive and not at their best, but do give some idea of what they could do for you. The cherries must be coloring up now.

Pterospermum acerifolius is a grand large tree out of deep frost, a great gangling shrub as cut back in cold. All parts are generous, of goodly scale and size from the 12″ maple-like leaf to the 6″ ribbony, magnolia-like flowers of fragrance. This will be seen and remembered by those who pass by the Courthouse grounds in Orlando Florida and Californians will wait impatiently for the other fellow to bring the species into the state.

Anyone who knew and remembers daphne of northern gardens will want to see *Dais continifolia,* which might be called the Daphne tree. This will probably be shrubby, but makes a slender tree to 25′ with its pink flower heads and striking leaves so like the smoke tree, also of the north. This has all the accustomed characters of the broadleaf evergreen, but drops its leaves to winter. It may be seen in the Vanasen, now the Dr. Russell Lowell garden on Lemon Avenue in La Mesa, California.

This little book describes many of the old California standbys, the coral trees, many acacias and a lot of new species of eucalyptus. It runs the gamut from Acokanthera to Melaleuca and Pittosporum to Plumbago and Wigandia. It is filled, literally replete with illustrations, photographs in good scale of these many things, old and new. Over and above this, for the gardener is a new point of view in the text, a fresh outlook with a bearing on what might be done here. And don't forget that seed is the more satisfactory, and

indeed possible way to get many of these species into the state.

These notes will be of special interest to people in frostfree areas of Southern California that can be depended upon in that respect. In San Diego County, this would indicate parts of Coronado and Encinitas with the warm hills around La Mesa and El Cajon, the "Magic Ten Miles" a broad band of climate extending northerly with breaks and windings, finally to run out into the ocean at Santa Monica.

And now a few ideas on culture as it relates to hardiness. Know that the term hardiness is a comparative term and that the gardener can do something about it. See to it first that cold air has a chance to drain off of your project to lower ground. Remember that it is matured wood that survives a cold period. When fall comes, start putting these plants away, as the nurseryman says. Do this by with-holding water and fertilizer. Stop feeding sometime in late summer. Go into winter dry as possible . . . but try to be moist at time of expected frost. A loose mulch at the base of the plant may save the crown in a freeze and a fine water spray may save the top . . . given early to melt any hoar frost and modify deeper penetration. Plants are safer, frostwise under a tree or lath or against a wall that gives off accumulated sun-warmth into the night. Those in containers or with tender parts close to the ground are in more danger.

Mr. Menninger's book of 175 pages, comes in cloth at $4.00 postpaid, and paperback at $2.50. The address is Stuart, Florida and he is the Flowering Tree Man. I can say that anyone who has come this far with me would take great pleasure in knowing him. He holds open garden Sunday afternoons.

ROLAND HOYT

The Early Bird

Here I am again, getting ready for my trip abroad this winter, but my beak is so dry and empty I can't think. Wish those plant lovers would consider the birds, put in a few berried shrubs and let the hose drip a bit in a nice stone metate, instead of talking about fragrant flowers—sounds silly to me. There are some fine round bushes of gardenias, growing against a warm east wall, with whorls of round thick white petals, whose smell the mortals seem to swoon over. I heard the gardener say he soaks and feeds them good, but not often. Another heavy scent comes from the waxy white flowers of a vine, *Stephanotis floribunda,* whose roots are shaded, but whose leather-thick leaves are in the sun. Seems to be a favorite of brides. Neither of these plants does me any good.

In the warmest shady spot, there is a twiner that has all the visitors a-twitter. The white flowers are really calyxes that almost cover the bright red corollas, which my friends, the hummers, have found. There are lots of black seeds later, but they didn't look very tempting. Its name is *Clerodendron thompsoni.* Fancy my being able to remember that! This very horticultural atmosphere I fly in, must rub off a bit on my wing feathers. I don't blame people for exclaiming over that vine on the back fence—that one with the huge white flowers, like a single rose. Its name should be shouted—*Clematis, henryi.* It's a beauty, don't forget it. I like to pick at its feathery seeds.

But to get back to my subject—when do we eat? My boss gardener doesn't seem to care. He would be glad enough if I would gobble those caterpillars off the white genista, (which a less learned bird would call broom,) but they are too hairy for my taste. The big tomato hornworm on the potato vine, I mentioned earlier, might provide a lot of protein in my diet, but I am afraid of indigestion. Or should I excuse myself by saying it is too beautiful to eat? Maybe I should see Oswald Owl, the psychiatrist, who sits on the wide limb of the eucalyptus tree, with its red flowers. See, I'm off my subject again, and I'm hungry. Since there aren't any fruits in the garden right now, I'll go out to the compost pit and find some juicy angleworms. Remind me to tell you, sometime, about the one that got away.

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The Dragon Tree

CHAUNCEY I. JERABEK
The San Diego Tree Man

The *Dracaena draco* was called Dragon Tree because its dried sap was supposed to resemble dragon's blood. It is often referred to as a palm, which is erroneous, as it belongs to the Lily Family. It is one of the few plants of that family that makes a tree.

With age, this Dracaena will become a huge specimen, but in San Diego and other parts of Southern California, most of the trees are comparatively young, and therefore small. They have thick trunks, either single-stemmed, or with a few heavy branches, crowned by tufts of glaucous, sword-shaped leaves. During the summer it produces panicles of greenish-yellow flowers, reminiscent of those of the yucca, which belongs to the same family. The flowers are followed by orange-colored berries which grow readily from seed. Many times self-sown plants can be found under the trees.

If you are looking for a garden oddity, this tree is both striking and tropical looking. It is also excellent for dry places, especially those where the roots will be crowded. This is illustrated by those growing in the urns in the formal gardens just north of the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park. At 252 Palomar Ave., in La Jolla, five have been planted in a narrow parking strip.

The native habitat of the *Dracaena draco* is the Canary Islands. On a Jack Douglas TV travelogue, a picture was shown of this tree, which the narrator said was over 3000 years old. I can readily believe this as I have read of a tree in Teneriffe that was more than 75 feet tall and 48 feet in diameter. Another famous specimen in Lunear, Portugal, was 40 feet high, with a like spread.

On some Dragon Trees I have noticed strong, stubby, root-like growths that protrude a few inches to a foot or more from the trunk, five or six feet above the ground. I have never read about this interesting feature, or heard anyone mention it, so I am guessing that, in their native habitat, these rootlets eventually reach the ground and act as braces to support the massive plant heads. I have also noted that, after a straight-trunked specimen blooms, it generally throws out lateral branches.

In going about San Diego I counted many more than a hundred Dragon trees. Various sizes can be seen in Balboa Park.

The tallest and most outstanding single-trunked *Dracaena draco* in town is at 3227 Lowell St., in the Roseville district. Others are at: 1370 Rosecrans, 6035 Camino de la Costa, 4494 Tivoli St., two at 4291 Arista Dr., two at 5758 Edgeware, 3524 Indiana, 4107 Hillsdale Rd., 4196 Arden Way.

More good examples of this Dragon Tree can be found at: 2404 C St., 2880 Grape St., 3555 First St., 3578-3574 Seventh St., N.W. cor. Willow and Freeman Sts., 6210 Avenida Cresta, 2040 Torrey Pines Rd., two at 660 Prospect St., three at 3505 Dumas St., 1370 Rosecrans, 932 Hawk St., 2212 Witherby, 3204 Homer St., three westside of driveway at 2775 Chatsworth Blvd., two at the La Jolla Presbyterian Church, also in church grounds of St. James by the Sea, La Jolla, eight near auditorium of Pt. Loma High School, and six east of the club house in La Jolla Cove Park.

Across the bay in Coronado, several good specimens are at: 737 Vistalia Row, 725 Adella Ave., 6190 Ocean Blvd., two at 1200 Fourth St., six at 1265 Alameda Blvd., (see cover) and two in the grounds of Hotel del Coronado.

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A San Diego Gardener

Reports From Honolulu

By Austin Faricy

"The garden enthusiast, arriving for the first time in Honolulu," said Bill De Haan to me, when I was planning to come to Hawaii, "expects to climb out of his airplane, and with a machete, start hacking his way through the lianas and banyans of the jungle to the city."

He warned me that the Honolulu side of the island was subarid, that the slopes of Diamond Head and Punchbowl were covered with a scrub of mesquite and cactus. It was a valuable disillusion-preventative.

One's dreams of tropical gardening are fulfilled in Honolulu and elsewhere in these islands, but the term, *microclimate,* is of prime importance. A distance of half a mile, an elevation of a few hundred feet, may make such a difference in rainfall or temperature as to necessitate an entirely different gardening approach and range of plant materials.

One of the first things to strike the California gardener, naturally, is the exuberant growth of things that have to be coaxed and fretted over at home — hedges of crotons, allemanda as a ground cover. I once had a collection of half a dozen little crotons, sulking and languishing and finally perishing. Here you see huge bundles of them pruned from hedges and set out for the trash man twice a week.

Or monstera. You almost do need that machete sometimes: there is a green-and-gold variegated monstera taking over a big tree outside my door, and I have to cut great lengths of it out of my way to get to the back porch.

And many orchids reveal a new tough personality. Dendrobiums and epidendrums are common garden subjects, and the new multi-colored reed epidendrums can be almost as bright as a border of zinnias. The cattleya personality is not only tough but split. Mine spend five months being kicked around the lower lanai, with some water sloshed on them every few days, and a sixth month flowering gorgeously and queening it over the living room.

For cut flowers, there is a disparity between the commercial crops and the flowers in gardens. Roses are a case in point. They are a common enough crop that you can buy a handsome bunch at the little shops on Nuuanu any day in the year for 50 cents, and you always get a baker's dozen. But you don't see roses in gardens. Apparently they need the constant vigilance of the typical truck crop, and life is too short to go through all that for a few bushes. And yet, down the alley from me a big rangy rose bush which doesn't seem to get any care, is in constant flower.

Bedding flowers are conspicuously absent, and yet you do see enough asters and zinnias that you know they can be done. But flowering shrubs and trees, being easier and more lasting, tend to be the main subjects.

Gardenias, you will be relieved to hear, can be as exasperating in Honolulu as in San Diego. Mine never flower, but a mile up the valley they use them for hedges. Hibiscus can attain to small tree size in the total absence of frost, but most of them are the same ungainly shrubs they are in California, and I have met very few of the deliciously scented white ones which are to my mind the best of all.

And speaking of fragrance, I must confess a reversal of a classic nostalgia situation. In California, the smell of white ginger always sent my Islands-loving friends into a paroxysm of evocation of Hawaii. But being as my first ten years of ginger were in Southern California, now, when I smell it in Hawaii, I think of San Diego!

Gardeners are perverse, like any other brand of mortal, and sigh for what is not. Geraniums are hard to make anything out of in Honolulu, so at the nurseries you will see pathetic little scragly plants commanding a handsome price. And gardeners here, as anywhere else, get swept by sudden crazes. A while back, the varicolored ti was the pearl of great price. Now interest had shifted to

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heliconias, and every week seems to see an advertisement of some further variation in size or shape.

My own craze has most recently been for a collection of calatheas and marantas which I am gradually building up. Some nine kinds flourish for me, but not the ctenanthe and the rabbit-tracks which were specimens in California.

People with higher-elevation gardens can have some of the cool-season plants that do so well for us in coastal California: camellias, cymbidiums, but both these are prized as rarities. But I have seen no cinerarias, fuchsias, or tuberous begonias.

Actually, there are a number of things that do so well here that you wonder why they are not used more. Bougainvillea, for instance, is not common, though it is certainly successful. And there is a yard on the Waikiki bus line that is resplendent with borders of cannas, and yet cannas are not widely used.

One reason for this may be the comparative absence of nurseries of any splendor. Most are weedy and discouraged-looking; few inspire you with that feeling of "this is what there is, and this is what can be done" that you get at De Haan's or Evans and Reeves.

And the problem of communication is all but insuperable. Labeling is a nonexistent art, and few of the nurserymen have an accurate vocabulary. Looking for a plant is likely to be exactly that: looking through the nursery to see whether you can find it, and giving up if you can't.

On the other hand, the plants and trees in the magnificant Foster Botanical Garden are clearly if unobtrusively labeled, and the University of Hawaii publishes a guide to the trees on the campus, complete with map and number cues. And there are two excellent books: Marie Neal's monumental "In Gardens of Hawaii," and Kuck and Tongg's "The Modern Tropical Garden," a handsome and readable book.

If one were to sum up, in a few trees and flowers, the essential allure of the gardens of California and Hawaii, the Californian tree would be the eucalyptus, the flowers, roses and geraniums. These are what you remember; these are what you welcome the sight of on returning. And in your mind Hawaii will probably always be associated with curving coconut palms, with the gentle but pervasive fragrance of the flowering plumeria trees, and with flowers in the most poetic and endearing of uses —leis of ginger, or tuberoses, or gardenias.

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EDITORIAL BOUQUETS

Our editorial orbit is being extended by the addition of a rose and iris authority from Sepulveda. She has added the skills of photography, lecturing, writing and editing, to her talent as plant appraiser, in order to bring more pleasure to those who share her hobby. We are proud to have Helen Carswell on our staff as a regular contributor.

In this issue a San Diego author, landscape architect Roland Hoyt, surveys a Florida book, and gives a valuable appraisal of some trees that might flower well here. Mr. Hoyt's volume on "Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions," is about to appear in a new edition. If it is as much ahead of its time as was the 1938 issue, it will be a double bargain. As a writer Mr. Hoyt has such a sensitive understanding of the garden world that, if plants could speak, they would surely make him their official interpreter.

Last June the San Diego Floral Association added the name of Guy L. Fleming to its list of Honorary Members. His long stand to establish and preserve Torrey Pines as the unique Park it has come to be, deserves the deepest appreciation of all forward looking citizens.

Austin Faricy, who lived for twelve years in San Diego, moved two years ago to Honolulu, where he is art and music critic for the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin.* He takes his plant interest lightly. When asked for the botanical handle for two of the favorites in his article he replied: "I have neither Hortus nor the Cyclopedia with me, but I believe 'rabbit tracks' is *Maranta leuconeura var. kerchoveana,* and cenanthe rejoices in the name of *C. oppenheimiana tricolor.*" Who wants to bother with Hortus, anyway?

The Observer's Almanac

A Miscellaney of Apples in Autumn

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

As usual, Henry wanted to know what I was doing, why I was doing it, how soon I would be through, and where I was going when I had finished.

"Who said, 'Men have no curiosity'?" I asked, and passed Henry a sheet of paper.

He fished around in his vest-pockets, found his glasses, shook them open, ran the stems back of his ears, adjusted the nose-piece, and after scanning the paper carefully, as if to make sure that nothing he read aloud would not be permitted over the air, he read:

AUTUMN — SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

"Take the fruit I give you," says the bending tree,
"Nothing but a burden is it all to me.
Lighten ye my branches; let them toss in air!
Only leave me freedom next year's load to bear."

Lucy Larcom

GREAT POSSESSIONS

"How are you, David," he said.
"Will ye have a Good Apple?"
So he gave me a Good Apple.
It was a yellow bellflower, without blemish
Very large and smooth . . . waxy yellow,
But where the sun had touched it
it blushed a delicious red.
As he passed it to me I caught a scent
as of old crushed apple blossoms,
. . . or it may have been
the still finer aroma of friendship.
It was a hand-filling apple
. . . good for tired eyes . . .
"A wonderful apple," I said,
holding it off at arm's length.
"No better grown," he said,
with restrained pride.
The odor was like
new-cut clover in old orchards.
"Shall I eat it?" I asked.
"It was grown to be eaten," he replied.
So I bit into it, with a rending sound
such as one hears sometimes
in a winter's ice pond.
The apple was mild, serene, ripe
compounded essence of sunshine
grudging soil, long violence of winter
. . . life triumphant though hedged about
by severity.

David Grayson

AFTER APPLE-PICKING

My long two-pointed
ladder's sticking through
a tree
Toward heaven still,
And there's a barrel that
I didn't fill
Beside it, and there may
be two or three
Apples I didn't pick
upon some bough
But I'm done with apple-
picking now
Essence of winter sleep
is on the night
The scent of apples:
I am drowsing off.
. . . My instep arch not
only keeps the ache
It keeps the pressure of
a ladder round.
I feel the ladder sway
as the bough bends.
. . . There were ten
thousand thousand fruits
to touch,
Cherish in the hand,
lift down, and not let
fall.

Robert Frost

Henry nodded approval and said, as he returned his glasses to his pocket, "You were certainly born with a nose for news, Mi Amiga."

FIESTA FLOWER SHOW

Distinguished by style in its setting, and by smartness and originality in its use of materials and containers, the Fiesta Flower Arrangement Show, held in the Floral Building on September 5, 6 and 7, brought praise for the student exhibitors from all parts of the county, and real credit to their instructor, Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick, who has been holding her classes in the Floral Building for some time. Mrs. Roland Hoyt was general chairman. Mrs. Kirkpatrick was assisted in flower arrangement demonstrations by Mrs. E. Schoneman and Mrs. Kano Chester.

FOR THAT "SOMETHING DIFFERENT"

A striking plant for containers in deep shade, or indoors, is *Calathea zebrina*. It was introduced to England from Brazil, in 1815. It is evergreen, with long, broad, wavy leaves, on lengthy stems. They unfurl from the center in a graceful curve that displays the purple backs and the dazzling velvet green stripes on a lighter green surface, so effectively, that the visitor always comes to a halt in front of them.

C. *zebrina* has an inconspicuous, blue and white, cone-like bloom in the summer. Besides shade, it requires plenty of water and good drainage. Repot in sandy loam, in the spring.

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Garden Chores

By Ada Perry

The best argument for a vacation, I still say, is the way you bounce back from fatigue after taking one. Of course the gas bills haven't begun to arrive yet. I'm still in an optimistic mood. As well as having plenty of bounce left. Tell you one thing, though, I never expected to sit in a flower garden and look at Hell's Canyon from Hat Point, Oregon. Which was foolish. This hobby of ours is everywhere. Of course it's more than a hobby; much, much more.

This flower garden on Hat Point, 7000 feet above the versatile and famous Snake River, had kept no landscape architects awake. (One who wished to copy it might spend many a sleepless night.) It was just one of Nature's simple offerings, resulting in a place where a person's soul might grow on a sunny August afternoon. The fir trees were very straight and perfect green spires, soft-textured from the ground up. The slope was such that the flower carpet was smooth and even between the trees and to the edge and the soft colors perfectly balanced: two shades of lavender asters, light and dark; Indian Paint Brush; a white and bluish mint. The background at the edge of the slope was four miles away and a charcoal blue, if there is such a color. It was the Seven Devils Range across Hell's Canyon in Idaho, but from this point an interesting and intriguing background for a flower garden 7000 feet high at the Hat Point Ranger's Lookout Station in Oregon. And those wild crevases of the Seven Devils must have flower gardens in them, too.

Rose planting time is coming up and so some pointed remarks on the use of roses in Oregon and Nevada flower borders will be appropriate, I feel. Maybe their roses look better in August than ours, but we can still plant floribundas in borders like we aren't afraid of them. There was a wide border in La Grande, Oregon, that was a regular knockout and it didn't have a single darn flower in it that we can't grow. The people had just put up a low fence on the sunny side of the front yard, made the bed about 12 feet wide and then had just gone to town setting in roses with the 'mums, iris, petunias, dahlias and our pet, saxifrage. The floribundas were in the foreground with other flowers and the hybrid teas and grandiflora Queen Elizabeth in the background with the taller flowers. Some of the taller flowers were golden glow but since when can't you plant the Glitters marigold and get an even better color? I took a picture.

I wanted to take a picture of Reno that looked human but didn't find a thing I liked until the Powell Nursery. What you see first is the border in front of the owners' home. Floribunda lovelies like Circus, Pinocchio, Ma Perkins, The Spartan and so on. I nearly forgot Gold Cup. Once the color chorus of the roses registers, you do notice that there is an awfully nice nursery next door. So I got a picture in Reno that I liked.

Virginia City is a place where you see how they used to do things but I got a flower picture there that shows how our modern red petunias can be used in the future. I expect some of you have already tried Comanche petunias along the top of a rock wall terrace with a good strong mixture of zinnias behind them. But if you haven't, it's something to look forward to. Of course, a precious strip of molded porch railing, date about 1876 I think, used for a gate to the terrace path-way does add quite a bit to the picture.

Now, down where I work at Walter Andersen's you can get a great quantity of information on how to plant roses next January. Seems like roses are prettier than ever. The best of the new floribundas seem to be Ivory Fashion, Starfire, Tom Tom, White Bouquet and Gold Cup. China Doll and Pinkie are still tops for the 18 inchers—18 inches high, that is, and very petite.

One of the things I like about the Nursery I mentioned is that material new to this area frequently lands on its floors. This past year, unfamiliar hollies have been showing up and I'm afraid one or two of them will wend their way to my front yard. That *Ilex opaca* "Mrs. Sarver" for instance. It does not look like an English holly but why should it? It has beautiful foliage of a dark, refined green. It grows like crazy and strings red berries through its branches in an airy, carefree manner. It's an American holly and grows from Massachusetts to Texas. Can grow pretty tall but trims easy evidently, without sticking the tarnation out of you.

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Good News For Palm "Fans"

As a result of the bad freeze that afflicted Florida last winter, some very valuable information on the hardiness of palms has been chalked up. According to an account in the *Miami Herald*, Dent Smith of 2514-18 S. Peninsula Dr., Daytonia Beach, is an ardent plant collector who began raising palms about seven years ago. Many were young plants that were naturally more susceptible to cold. Last winter there were severe and repeated freezes. Many palms were lost, but a surprising number proved that they could stand below freezing temperatures for hours on end.

What seemed a disaster at the time, may serve as an incentive to the planting of more beautiful palms, not only in Florida, but also, we hope, in San Diego. Some specimens have great ornamental value, but they are hard to find in commerce. It would seem, after San Diego's recent, almost tropical weather, that there should be more demand for these handsome and unusual trees, so nurserymen would find it worth while to stock them.

We are indebted to Mr. Smith, who organized the Palm Society, for the following list of palms that withstood freezing temperatures in his nursery, for at least a few hours.

Acrocomia fusiformis, A. totai Arecastrum romanzoffianum (Cocos plumosa or Queen Palm), Arenga engleri, Bismarcia nobilis, Butia capitata (Pindo Palm, with normally arching gray-green leaves), B. eriospatha (Wooly Palm), Chamaedorea cataractarum,, C. erumpens, C. klotzschiana, C. radicalis, C. seifrizi, Chamaerops humilis (Mediterranean Hair Palm), Chrysalidocarpus sp. (a striking, but as yet unnamed palm, commonly referred to as the red-fruited Chrysalidocarpus palm).

Coccothrinax crinita (Silver Palm), Collinia elegans, Corypha umbraculifera (Talipot Palm), Dictyosperma album, var. rubrum (Red Palm), Drymophloeus beguini, Howea forsteriana (Paradise Palm, Sentry Palm, fine for pots), Licuala grandis, L. peltata (India Palm), L. spinosa, Livistona australis (Australian Fan Palm, Fountain Palm, with graceful fans), L. chinensis (Chinese Fan Palm), L. cochinchinsis (Malayan Palm), L. rotundifolia (charming Javanese Dwarf Fan Palm).

Parajubaea cocoides, Paurotis wrighti (Saw Palm), Phoenix abyssinica (Date Palm), P. canariensis (Canary Island Date Palm), P. dactylifera (commercial Date Palm), P. humilis (Dwarf Date, some injury), P. roebeleni (Pigmy Dwarf Date), P. reclinata (Senegal Date Palm), P. rupicola (Drooping Date Palm), P. sylvestris, Pseudophoenix sargenti (Cherry Palm), Rhapsis excelsa (Lady Palm, Bamboo Palm), Rhapidophyllum hystrix (Needle Palm).

Sabal causiarum (Puerto Rico Palm), S. etonia, S. glaucescens (some injury), S. mauritiaé formis (some injury), S. mayarum (some injury), S. nematoclada (some injury), S. palmetto (the common Florida Sabal or Cabbage Palm), S. parviflora (Cuban Palm), S. texana (Texan Palm), S. umbraculifera, S. yapa.

Serenoa repens (common Saw Palmetto), Syagrus weddelliana, Trachycarpus, fortunei (Windmill Palm), T. martiana, Trithrinax brasiliensis, Zombia antillarum (some injury).

Then there is a spreading one with small, close, glossy leaves and it's called *Ilex pernyi*. Very pretty and I would try it in a planter box in a minute if I had a planter box. Another one also with glossy leaves but rangier is called *Ilex aquiperni* and it is a fasty, making branch wood a mile a minute seems like.

But the one with very interesting possibilities for our beach towns is *Ilex vomitoria* or Yaupon holly and easterners who have known it along the Carolina coast wonder if it would not grow well here in our beach homes, even windy sites, for it certainly does do that along the southern Atlantic coastline. The Dahoon holly or *Ilex cassine* is inclined toward southern areas too but I can't seem to get excited about its foliage, notwithstanding the exciting name. Well, if roses and hollies don't interest you, I'd say plant bulbs for the next two months! Or, plant all three.

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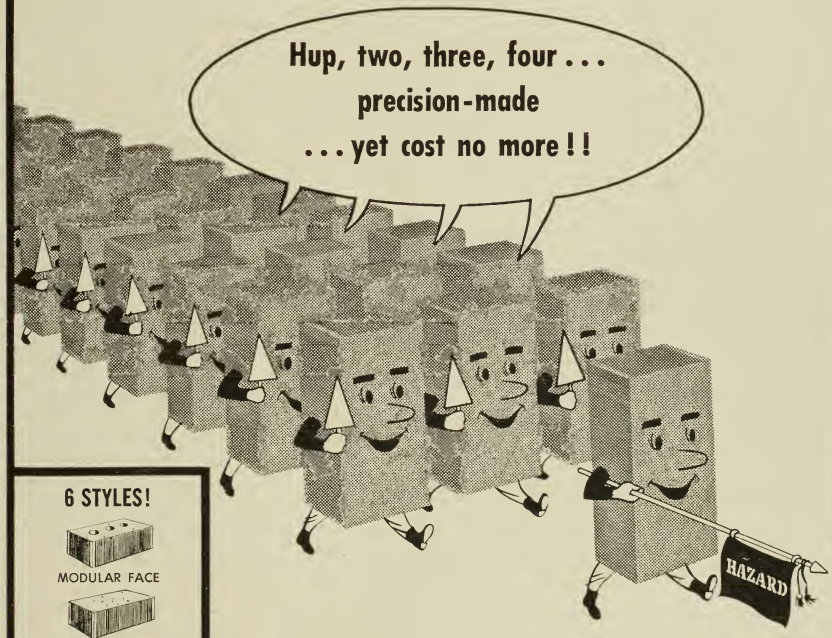

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